

Sudan preparing peace formula

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said Saturday his government was preparing a new declaration on how to settle the three-year-old civil war in southern Sudan. Mr. Mahdi, quoted by the Sudan News Agency (SUNA), also said his government, troubled by the war and an acute economic crisis, was "well ahead with plans to convene a long-delayed conference to produce a new constitution. Speaking to leaders of political parties, Mr. Mahdi said the problem facing his government was how to deal with what he called the "armed movement in Ethiopia," a reference to the Addis Ababa-backed rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). He said the new peace formula would take into account contacts with the SPLA, led by Colonel John Garang, before the shooting down last August of a Sudanese Airtiner by the rebels. All 60 people on board were killed. Mr. Mahdi and Col. Garang, once allied against the role of now ousted President Jaafar Numeiri, had inconclusive talks in Ethiopia some three weeks before the plane was downed. After the incident, Mr. Mahdi broke contact with the SPLA and described it as a terrorist organisation controlled by foreign powers.

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Dudin meets Spanish Red Cross president

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin conferred in his office Saturday with Mr. Leocadio Marin, president of the Spanish Red Cross Society, who is on a visit to Jordan. During the meeting Mr. Dudin spoke on Israel's arbitrary measures against the Arab inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories. These actions, he said, constitute a flagrant violation of human rights law and the Geneva Convention. Mr. Dudin also spoke on Israel's inhuman treatment of Arab detainees in Israeli jails and Israel's obstruction of Red Cross operations in the occupied West Bank. Mr. Marin arrived in Amman Thursday after attending an International Red Cross and Red Crescent meeting in Doha, Qatar.

JPA candidates hold debate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) held a dialogue on Saturday between the two candidates running for the presidency of the Jordan Press Association (JPA). The elections will take place Friday. Both nominees Ibrahim Sakija and Rakan Al Majali, the only contenders for the post, reviewed the associations' activities since the mid-70s, and outlined their election programmes. Later, both men replied to queries raised by more than 100 journalists who gathered at the Professional Associations Complex.

Village calls for amnesty for Abdallah

KABBAYAT, Lebanon (R) — Georges Ibrahim Abdallah's home village on Saturday appealed for France to give the jailed Lebanese an amnesty because it said the French secret service had interfered in his defense. "(Village) leaders were surprised that the first lawyer who was supposed to defend Georges Abdallah was an agent of the secret service," Kabbayat priest Nabil Zourabi said. "The lawyer took to French police information that he got from Georges and added charges that had not originally been included." Mr. Zourabi said, Mr. Zourabi was referring to Jean-Paul Marzurier, Abdallah's lawyer after he was arrested in France in 1984. Mr. Marzurier told French Television Friday night he had shown messages from Abdallah to his followers to the French secret police. Spokesmen for the remote Maronite Christian village, 150 kilometers northeast of Beirut, told reporters they had asked humanitarian organisations, Arab leaders and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to intercede with France on Abdallah's behalf.

Kuwait to hold naval exercises

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait announced plans on Saturday for naval exercises in the northern Gulf. A Defence Ministry statement, quoted by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), said gunboats would exercise with live rounds in the next two days off the so-called divided zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The area is some 100 miles south of the Gulf borders of Iran and Iraq.

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Iraq says new Iranian assault foiled near Basra

2 divisions of Revolutionary Guards said destroyed; Tehran reports fighting in north

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said on Saturday its forces, backed by fighter-bombers, helicopter gunships and fierce artillery barrages, repulsed an attack by two divisions of Iranian soldiers in heavy fighting near the southern city of Basra.

A military spokesman said Iraqi defenders wiped out the Iranian force, made up of Revolutionary Guards, in nearly 12 hours of fighting.

"Iraqi forces used thousands of rounds of artillery, tank and mortar shells, in addition to jet fighters and helicopter gunships... to thwart the Iranian offensive and turn enemy positions, weapons and tanks into rubble," spokesman reported.

He said three U.S.-made Iranian Cobra gunships were shot down by ground fire in fighting late Friday.

The spokesman also said President Saddam Hussein on Friday presided over a meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and Baath Party lead-

ership which studied the war situation, including the aftermath of Iraq's decision to stop bombing Iranian population centres.

He repeated Iraqi charges that Iran had violated conditions set by Baghdad for stopping the air attacks and said Tehran would have to bear responsibility for such action.

The Iraqi News Agency also announced that Iraqi warplanes attacked a "large naval target," which usually means a tanker carrying Iranian oil, in the northern reaches of the Gulf on Saturday, "scoring an accurate and effective hit."

Western analysts doubt that the Iranians, despite recent injections of new hardware, have the firepower to match the Iraqis or make any sizeable breakthrough.

Gemayel hails Assad's peace efforts as a big step forward

DAMASCUS (AP) — Lebanese President Amine Gemayel on Saturday hailed Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's efforts to pacify Lebanon as a "big step forward" in moves to end nearly 12 years of civil war and factional bloodletting.

Mr. Gemayel made the remark in a message sent to Mr. Assad on the eve of the 24th anniversary of the Baath Socialist Party's rise to power in Syria.

Mr. Gemayel made no specific reference to Syrian military intervention in Lebanon. Fehl 22, when Mr. Assad sent 7,500 troops with 100 tanks to west Beirut to end a week of fierce street battles between rival militias.

But Mr. Gemayel's message, the first congratulatory cable Mr. Assad has received from any head of state to mark the anniversary, was seen by officials in Damascus as tacit approval of the Syrian intervention.

"I am thrilled that the anniversary comes at a time when Lebanon, with Your Excellency's help and backing, is taking a big step forward in a march towards peace and stability and an end to its agony," Mr. Gemayel's message read.

He stressed that he and the Lebanese were "keen on establishing the best fraternal, neighbourly and amicable relations be-

tween our two countries."

He added: "We are looking forward to a national reconciliation with your backing that will guarantee equal rights and justice to all Lebanese based on merit and equal opportunity."

It was the first reported formal contact between Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Assad since the Syrian forces rumbled into west Beirut to restore law and order after three years of chaotic militia rule of the capital's mainly Muslim sector.

It also marked a sharp public change of attitude by Mr. Gemayel, who initially had branded the Syrian intervention "unconstitutional" because he had not been consulted.

Syria sent in troops after Damasens talks said Mr. Gemayel's advisers would return to the Syrian capital next week for their ninth shuttle since reconciliation efforts began two months ago.

Relations between the two presidents crumbled in January last year when Mr. Gemayel torpedoed a Syrian-brokered peace accord signed by his rivals.

Mr. Gemayel, aided by right-wing Christian allies, charged that the accord, aimed at giving Lebanon's Muslim majority an equal share of power, stripped the long dominant 1.1 million Christians of the power they had held since independence from France in 1943.

51 killed and 113 missing in English Channel ferry mishap

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium (Agencies) — Divers plunged into icy waters Saturday hunting for 113 people still missing 18 hours after a giant British ferry capsized outside a Belgian port.

Chances of finding more survivors were "very negative," British Transport Secretary John Moore told a news conference after flying over from England.

Olivier Vaerst, governor of West Flanders province, said 51 people were confirmed dead among the 463 passengers and 80 crew. He said 379 people survived and 113 were missing.

The cause of the disaster, the worst in modern times in the busy English Channel, remained a mystery.

"There is no explanation of the cause yet," Mr. Vaerst said at the news conference. He said an official investigation was launched Saturday morning.

The vessel was pulling clear of the harbour when mysteriously flooded and heeled over onto its side in what was believed to be the worst cross-channel accident.

The head of Zeebrugge port authority, Fernand Traen, discounted early reports that the ferry sank after colliding with a

pier as it left the harbour.

He said the side of the ship which would have made contact with the pier showed no signs of damage.

Belgian Radio said heat-seeking equipment on British military helicopters hovering over the wreck Saturday morning registered positive signs and that rescue work had resumed.

The thermal image equipment, which can detect the heat of living bodies, was sent from Britain as part of a huge international rescue operation.

But Belgian Transport Minister Herman de Croo told reporters he feared there was no chance of finding any more survivors. "We have to be pessimistic on this point," he said.

The Belgian news agency Belga, quoting naval sources, said two lorries carrying a total of 111 barrels of dangerous cyanide-based chemicals were on board the stricken ferry.

Officials were not immediately able to confirm the report.

Survivors recount ordeal, page 8



U.S. to sell helicopters to S. Arabia

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration plans to sell helicopters and electronic equipment for jet fighters for more than \$400 million to Saudi Arabia, Pentagon officials said Saturday. Officials confirmed published reports the administration will officially notify Congress later this month of the intent to sell a dozen large troop transport helicopters, other smaller helicopters and electronic counter-measures equipment for Saudi Arabia's F-15 fighter jets. The sale would become official 30 days after the notification unless Congress vetoed it. Army Lieutenant Colonel Bill Birdseye, a Pentagon spokesman, said congressional committees were unofficially apprised of the sale last week, but declined to give specifics. Such unofficial notification is normally made 20 days before Congress receives official notice of planned large military sales. Other defense officials, who asked not to be identified, confirmed published reports in the Baltimore Sun and in Defense News, a private military publication, that the package would total over \$400 million. The report said the sale would include 12 UH-60 "Blackhawk" troop transport helicopters, 15 smaller Bell 406 helicopters.



King meets Sytenco, Swareddahab and M'bou

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday held talks with roving Soviet Ambassador Mikhail Sytenco on efforts to convene an international conference on the Middle East. The King and Mr. Sytenco exchanged views on coordination of efforts for this purpose, Petra said.

The King also held separate meetings with Abdal Rahim Swareddahab, head of the now-dissolved Sudanese military council, and Amadou Mohtar M'bou, director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

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Senate committee may force Iran testimony, report says

Contras acknowledge getting money from Swiss account

WASHINGTON (R) — A special Senate committee may approve within two weeks limited immunity from prosecution for key players in the Iran-contra scandal to force them to testify, the Washington Post said Saturday.

It quoted unidentified sources as saying the committee would vote on granting limited immunity to Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, the National Security Council (NSC) aide fired for possible diversion of Iran profits to Nicaraguan rebels, and former NSC Director John Poindexter.

The committee may also vote on granting limited immunity to Richard Secord, a retired major general investigators say helped Col. North provide arms to the rebels, the Post said.

All three have invoked their right not to testify on grounds of possible self-incrimination. If given limited immunity from prosecution they would be forced to testify or face possible jail terms for contempt.

Other questions possibly only they can answer include how much of \$20 million in Iran arms profits went to Nicaraguan rebels and whether higher White House officials knew of the diversion.

Adolfo Calero, leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the largest rebel group, has said the FDN received \$200,000 from Lake Resources, a dummy company controlled by Col. North and Gen. Secord to handle Iran arms profits.

In a separate story the Post said documents showed \$1.7 million in private donations for the rebels

was funnelled into Lake Resources' bank account in Switzerland and another one million went to a rebel-controlled company.

It said a report by Richard Miller, president of International Business Communications (IBC), stated it channelled money to Lake Resources at Col. North's request but said Col. North did not say how the money would be spent.

The newspaper said the report showed \$1.74 million of the money raised from private contributors went to Lake Resources and \$1.31 million of that was funnelled to Intel Co-operation, a Cayman Islands corporation.

It said IBC also reported another \$1 million of contributions went to Alpha Services, a corporation controlled by Calero's FDN.

On Friday, former Senator John Tower, head of a presidential commission that investigated the Iran-contra connection, said he did not think there was a diversion of money from the Iran sales to the contras in 1985.

The three shipments of U.S. weapons from Israeli stockpiles to Iran that year appear to have been "pretty straight transactions," Sen. Tower said in a telephone interview from Dallas,

Texas.

He said the commission's "big problem" was that "we knew there was an intention to divert money and we knew it was diverted, but we didn't know who got it."

Contra official Bosco Matamoros said the rebels received two deposits in October, 1985, totalling nearly \$200,000, from the Lake Resources' account.

In another Iran-contra development Friday, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater denied a story in Progressive magazine that said the government secretly monitored the home telephones of Robert C. McFarlane after he quit as President Ronald Reagan's national security adviser in late 1985.

Cooper was killed last October when another aircraft, which he was flying over Nicaragua to drop supplies to the contra rebels, was shot down.

Ward, in a telephone interview, confirmed a newspaper report published Friday that Cooper paid for the plane with two checks drawn from the Eaux-Vives branch of Credit Suisse, a commercial bank in Switzerland.

Ward said he did not know for what purpose Cooper intended the cargo plane and he didn't inquire about the method of payment. "I never gave it any thought," he said.

The checks were signed by Credit Suisse's branch manager, identified only as J. Steger. The account number of the checks was that of the Eaux-Vives branch, the news service said. There was no indication from the checks where the money came from.

Ward said the asking price for the airplane was \$250,000.

Senate Republican leader Bob

Bush sees Iran scandal firestorm dying down

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (R) — Vice President George Bush, in Iowa on a two-day political swing, has said he is convinced that the firestorm sparked by the Iran arms scandal is dying down.

"I find that Iowans are preoccupied with the real problems of the nation and not with Iran," he told an invited Republican support for his undeclared campaign for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination.

"We're (the Reagan administration) going to be judged not on this firestorm of the moment, which is now in my judgment receding, but on an overall record," he added.

But he also said he regrets he did not do more to block the arms deal.

"I think that all of us can stand up and say we wish we had done something different to spare the president and the country the failures of this policy," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush, who is expected to formally declare his candidacy in the autumn, is the current frontrunner for the nomination. But

Arms scandal endangers Sweden's peace image

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's reputation as an arbiter for world peace was Saturday in danger of being tarnished over an arms smuggling scandal which led to the resignation of the managing director of its biggest weapons firm, Bofors.

Martin Ardbo resigned as managing director Friday, saying it was not fitting he remained in charge of the firm while police investigated charges by Swedish peace groups that arms were exported to countries blacklisted by Bofors.

Ardbo denied his resignation was not an admission of guilt.

"It is not a good situation for Bofors to be in and so I think it is best I stand down," he told Swedish radio.

The Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (SPAS) has accused Bofors of illegally exporting arms to warring countries, including Iran.

Swedish law forbids the sale of weapons to nations at war but SPAS, the world's oldest peace group, says the rules are widely flouted.

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15:35 A Whole World of Children

17:00 Risking It All

17:30 Candid Camera

18:15 Local Agricultural Programme

18:40 Local Series

19:25 Programme Review

20:30 News in Arabic

21:55 Tomorrow's programmes

22:00 Arabic series

22:00 News summary in Arabic

22:10 Arabic Series

PROGRAMME TWO

12:00 Catherine

12:00 News in French

12:30 Varieties

20:00 Who's the Boss

21:00 The Day the Universe Changed

22:00 News in English

22:10 Spearfield's Daughter

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12:30

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News Summary

13:30

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14:00

News Bulletin

14:15

Instrumental

15:00

Science Report

15:30

Concert Hour

16:00

News Summary

16:30

Instrumentals

16:30

Old Favourites

17:00

Listeners' Choice

17:30

News Summary

17:45

Just How

18:30

Date with a Star

18:30

Evening Show

19:00

News Summary

21:00

Evening Show confirmed

21:30

News Summary

21:45

Evening Show confirmed

21:55

News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition depicting social life in Jordan and Egypt by Ibrahim Tamam at the Petra Bank Galery.

* An engineering exhibition at Yarmouk University (until March 9)

ARTICLES

A film by the Jordan Cine-Club at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel: 6610267 American Centre Tel: 664371 American Centre Library 641520 British Council 6361478 French Cultural Centre 637009 Goethe Institute 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre 642403 Spanish Cultural Centre 620409 Turkish Cultural Centre 627777 Haya Art Centre 66012000 Huda Youth City 66718116 Y.W.C.A. 641793 Y.W.M.A. 662251 Amman Municipal Library 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library 843553

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" — Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 16th century). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

PRAYER TIMES

04:35 Fajr (Sunrise) Dhuhr 11:47 Asr (Afternoon) Magrib 17:48 Isha (Night)

Ex-Mossad chief urges inquiry over Pollard scandal

Ex-Mossad chief urges inquiry over Pollard scandal

TEL AVIV (R) — Former Israeli

espionage chief said Saturday he

did not believe the recruitment of

Jonathan Pollard, an American

convicted of spying for Israel, was

a rogue operation and called for

a full-scale inquiry into the affair.

Ascher Ward, an independent

broker based in Sepulveda, Califor-

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an American helping Nicaragua's

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UNESCO financially sound despite pull outs by United States and England, M'bow says

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Heavily criticising the United States and England for pulling out of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the organisation's director general Amadou Mohtar M'bow said Saturday that UNESCO is financially viable.

"We managed to head-off the repercussions resulting from the two countries' withdrawal of their financial support through a host of prompt measures," Mr. M'bow told a press conference hours after His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan inaugurated two UNESCO regional offices in Amman.

Cutting back the organisation's expenditure, deciding not to fill vacancies in the organisation as well as receiving extra contributions from several member states were the main measures which helped off-set UNESCO's deficit, he said. The two countries' (the U.S. and England) financial contributions to the organisation constituted as much as one third of its total budget of \$374 million in 1984/1985, the years when the U.S. and England pulled out of the organisation, noted Mr. M'bow.

He charged that the United States' withdrawal from UNESCO had been spearheaded to undermine the organisation's management — known to have assisted campaigns launched by liberation movements throughout the world — and jeopardise its efforts towards disseminating culture and education in underdeveloped countries.

"Ironically," he said, "the Americans should form an investigation committee — similar to the recent Tower commission on the U.S. arms scandal — to look into the reasons behind America's decision. The hearing session could be billed that of UNESCOgate."

Mr. M'bow supported his charges saying that the U.S. subsequently launched a media campaign against what it labelled mismanagement and financial blunders of the (UNESCO) management. By withholding funds, he continued, both the U.S. and England were hoping to disable UNESCO, with a fast accompli staff lay-off, an eventuality which would have undermined the whole institution. "They failed," said the 66-year-old Senegalese director general.

Referring to the organisation's continuous support of various liberation organisations in Africa and Asia, he noted that the assistance extended by UNESCO constituted scientific, cultural and educational contributions without being affected by any political affiliations.



Amadou Mohtar M'bow
Support for Palestinian
students

Mr. M'bow noted that UNESCO staunchly supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) through extending funds earmarked for educational and cultural training programmes for Palestinians living in the occupied territories, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

Part of the funds be added, are allocated for sending Palestinian undergraduates on scholarships abroad, as well as working on preserving the legacy and Arab culture of the occupied city of

Jerusalem.

On the organisation's overall scheme, Mr. M'bow said that UNESCO was keen to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000 and to make available compulsory education for all by that time. At present, there are approximately 125 million illiterate adults in the world.

Mr. M'bow said he was not planning to run for a third term in office since he said, such a nomination should be made by the 152 UNESCO member states in conformity with internal charters. However, he declined to reveal whether or not he would accept to hold his post should member states unanimously make the approach. "I will reply to that question only when it arises," he said.

Mr. M'bow's first term began in 1974 and ended in 1980.

Citing Jordan's geopolitical situation, Mr. M'bow said that the Kingdom was the most suitable location for the two regional offices; one of which had been operating in Beirut and the other in Cairo.

The staff of both the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Arab States and the Regional Office for Education in Arab states had been operating for sometime from Paris until the Amman UNESCO premises had been completed.

24 post offices start forwarding job application forms to CSC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Twenty four post offices around the Kingdom on Saturday started receiving and forwarding job applications to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in implementation of a recent government decision.

The move is to save effort and time for members of the public seeking employment in government offices in Jordan, according to Mr. Muhibeddin Al Husseini, the minister of communications.

There are plans to increase and expand the services provided by post offices in the country and more post offices will be assigned to handle CSC application forms shortly, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. He said that in addition to receiving and forwarding applications for employment, post offices in Jordan handle applications for registration at the Civil Registration Department, for enrolment at Jordanian universities and renewing vehicle licences.

The Ministry of Communications, the minister said, initially assigned 24 post offices to handle applications for the CSC but the number will be increased in the light of the demand for the service. The ministry does not charge any fees for this service, he noted.

Bar association elects new ten-member council

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The committee supervising the Jordan Bar Association (JBA) elections continued the vote count throughout Friday night till dawn Saturday when it announced the winners of the 10-member council of the association.

Jordanian lawyers reelected Mr. Hussein Mjalli as JBA president for a new two-year term on Friday, a sweeping victory over candidates Mr. Omar Ahs Al Ragheb and Mr. Nabil Haddadin.

The vote count was 538, 345, and 127 respectively.

The ten council seats were filled by the following lawyers: Zahid Al-Dissi (595 votes); Ahmad Abu Arqoub (497); Zahran Abu Al Ragheb (482); Salim Al Zo'bi (445); Tayseer Hawamied (441); Marwan Hussein (422); Ahmad Abu Saman (394); Walid Assali (389); Kamal Nasser (383), and Mohammad Al Rashdan (379). There were 27 contestants for council seats.

Asma Khader and Aisha Faraj who received 23 and 16 votes respectively, were the only two female lawyers running in the elections. Though they did not win any seats, their results were seen by colleagues as encouraging for women lawyers.

The turn out was considered the highest ever in the association's history as 1,060 lawyers voted out of the registered 1,276, reflecting a keen interest in the election's outcome. There were 50 blank ballots.

Mr. Mjalli had to secure half

plus one the votes cast (1,060) to win the election, according to the association's law. He secured the requirement from the first round.

Lawyers interviewed by the Jordan Times said the election's results did not come as a surprise. One lawyer explained that "people were voting for somebody they already knew to be doing a good job. Many were simply taking chances on somebody else."

Some attributed Mr. Mjalli's victory to his personality and flexibility, others to his wide contacts and strong financial position, allowing him to spend more on his election campaign. Observers close to association electioneering said that nearly JD 50,000... were spent in campaign money by the three candidates for the association presidency alone.

The three candidates hardly differed on the issues raised during campaigning. Their pledges centred on improving the financial status of lawyers, the Bar Association's relationship with various government and non-governmental agencies, retirement pension and other benefits.

Lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, three times association president was conspicuously absent from Friday's elections while an unusually high number of women attended as two women were running for seats.

Lawyers' main concern in the election was the expansion and enactment of a law that obliges companies with more than JD 150,000 capital to hire Jordanian lawyers.

Mr. Mjalli had to secure half

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mrs. M'bow calls at women's federation

AMMAN (Petra) — The wife of Mr. Amadou Mohtar M'bow, the director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Saturday visited the General Federation of Jordanian Women. Mrs. M'bow was briefed by the federation's president, Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir, on the federation's activities and goals. She also visited Al Khansa' centre where she toured its sections and was briefed on the services and training courses which the centre holds for Jordanian women.

Arab labour conference underway

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the 15th Arab labour conference which was opened in Baghdad on Saturday by Iraqi Vice-President Taha Mohieddin Ma'ruf. Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan is heading Jordan's delegation to the conference. The week-long conference is being attended by labour ministers, heads of labour unions as well as employers in Arab countries.

AOAS discusses employment policies

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting on employment policies and manpower in Arab countries began in Amman on Saturday at the Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS). The six-day meeting is discussing topics on employment policies at government organisations in Arab states, personnel systems, ethics of public service in addition to other subjects. Taking part in the meeting are Arab officials and experts in the personnel field and AOAS experts.

Bank extends JD 43.9m for housing

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank last year granted loans totalling JD 43.9 million to private and public sector housing projects in the Kingdom, according to a statistical bulletin released by the bank on Saturday. The bulletin said that the public sector obtained 40 per cent of the Housing Bank loans which were used to build homes for government employees and for implementing projects undertaken by the Urban Development Department.

U.S. agriculture expert to give lectures

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. David Pimental, professor of insect ecology and agricultural sciences at Cornell University, will be visiting Jordan under the auspices of the American Cultural Centre in Amman. During his visit from March 9-11, he will meet with Jordanian officials in the field of agriculture and give lectures to students at the University of Jordan and the University of Science and Technology. Professor Pimental will also tour the Jordan Valley and the Jordan Valley agricultural service project. Professor Pimental has written extensively and has authored many research papers in the field of agriculture.

Campus hosts training course on computers in agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has successfully applied the concept of comprehensive agricultural development in the Jordan Valley region and is now trying to apply the experience in other areas through regional planning, Under Secretary of Agriculture Salem Al-Lawzi said Saturday.

He said that the Ministry of Agriculture, which supervises various agricultural projects in the Kingdom, is increasingly maintaining cooperation with the University of Jordan and other regional and international organisations to work towards achieving the best results in farming.

Dr. Lawzi was addressing the opening session of an eight-day training course on the employment of computers in analysing projects and agricultural policies, organised in cooperation with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Dr. Lawzi said that modern

technology is being used more and more to help ensure food security and to increase the amounts of crops and also to pursue research to find the most suitable strains of crops for given climatic conditions.

Other speakers at the opening session included Dr. Zuhair Abdullah, a FAO regional office consultant, who urged Near East and North African countries to double their efforts in food production and he stressed the importance of sound planning to ensure success. The present training course is aimed at promoting agricultural planning to cope with national development schemes, Dr. Abdullah said.

Another speaker was Mahmoud Al-Dwiri, the dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture, who underlined the on-job training programmes which the university is conducting on the use of computers and advanced techniques.

JTV to screen special programme on life in South Lebanon tonight

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Television (JTV) will present a special programme tonight entitled "Zahra Al Kindou" which relates the story of a woman from South Lebanon and her harrowing experiences under Israeli occupation.

The woman named Khadijeh demonstrates and protests against Israel's atrocities and demands freedom for men held at Ansar detention camp. She is arrested and imprisoned for a year. Similar experiences occur in southern

Lebanon where the situation prompts other women to participate in what develops into widespread popular resistance.

The documentary reveals aspects of the daily life and traditions featuring the cultural life of the local inhabitants. The documentary will be presented at 8:30 p.m.

Zahra Al Kindou means a wild flower that grows between the rocks. The flower has yellow roots and is surrounded by thorns.

Prince Hassan opens UNESCO regional offices in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Saturday that Jordan, along with other developing nations, continues to work towards scientific, cultural and educational development and the Kingdom appreciates any contribution in this respect from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Jordan is among several developing nations which continue to confront major obstacles in their attempts to cope with advanced nations in the scientific, industrial and agricultural fields because of the lack of required expertise, insufficient natural resources and the absence of proper frameworks that could lead to scientific progress which advanced nations enjoy, Prince Hassan said in an address at an official ceremony for inaugurating the UNESCO's regional offices in Amman.

Through UNESCO's offices and Jordan's endeavours, this country hopes to offer contributions to the international community's efforts towards acquiring more culture and knowledge for humankind, Prince Hassan continued.

He said that through the Kingdom's cultural institutions, such as the Al-Bait Foundation and the Forum Humanum as well as cultural conferences, Jordan continues to exert efforts towards achieving this end.

The Crown Prince paid tribute to UNESCO Director General Amadou Mohtar M'bow for his relentless efforts in promoting education, scientific and cultural development in different countries.

Mr. M'bow later made a speech in which he voiced appreciation to Prince Hassan for patronising the inauguration ceremony and he thanked Jordan for its continued cooperation with UNESCO in promoting education and knowledge. Mr. M'bow also spoke about UNESCO's expansion since the 1960s which, he said, warranted the increase of its programmes and cooperation with countries around the world.

Minister of Education Thaouqan Hindawi also made a speech on the occasion, expressing Jordan's delight at hosting UNESCO's regional office in Amman.

He said that the UNESCO office will contribute towards the educational, cultural and scientific development of the Arab region and will help carry out international programmes in these fields. Jordan has followed with interest UNESCO's activities and programmes around the world and deeply appreciates Mr. M'bow's endeavours for preserving Islamic and Arab culture in occupied Arab Jerusalem and UNESCO's request to Israel to respect the Geneva and The Hague conventions which call on



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday delivers a speech during the inaugural ceremony for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's regional offices in Amman. The Crown Prince is flanked by Minister of Education Thaouqan Hindawi (left) and UNESCO director general Amadou Mohtar M'bow (second right) and the regional director of the organisation Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kazem (right).

occupation authorities to desist from committing any actions against educational and cultural institutions under occupation, the minister said.

The Crown Prince paid tribute to UNESCO Director General Amadou Mohtar M'bow for his highest ideal of spreading justice, enlightenment, equality, tolerance and amity among nations and has always striven to safeguard cultural heritage and rights.

Income Tax Department collects JD 3 million during February

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Income Tax Department collected JD 3 million last month, according to the department's director, Mr. Salman Al Tarawneh. He said that the department's collections in the first two months of 1987 were almost the same as those in 1986, but, he said, many individuals and businesses failed to submit statements about their income and have therefore forfeited their right to obtain substantial discounts offered by the department.

Last month the department announced that it had collected JD 10 million during January and it urged members of the public and businesses to submit their income statements as soon as possible.

Envoy to Oman meets ministers

MUSCAT (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Oman Nayef Al Hadid on Saturday met with Omani Minister of Justice Halal Al Bosa'idi and delivered an invitation from Minister of Justice Riyadh Al Shaka'a asking the Omani minister to take part in the meetings of the Arab Justice ministers, scheduled to be held in Amman on April 11. Also Saturday, Mr. Hadid held talks with Omani Environment Minister Shabib Ibo Taymous to review bilateral relations, especially in environmental fields.

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More of the same

AFTER a three-month self-imposed silence, President Ronald Reagan addressed the American people on Wednesday to make a clean breast of the Iran arms scandal. He took "full responsibility" for his actions, which, he said, were aimed "to develop relations with those who might assume leadership in a post-Khomeini government." The U.S. president said he did not set out to trade arms for hostages, but he fully admitted that the policy turned into such a swap. This, of course, was contrary to his administration's policy towards hostage-takers and to what he told the American people a few months ago.

The remainder of President Reagan's address dealt with how to avoid such mistakes in the future and how to better structure America's foreign policy set-up. He, however, paid little attention to the question of the policy's wisdom or the damage it had done to American credibility. President Reagan, it seems, has taken full responsibility for little else than memory lapses and policy mismanagement. He has failed to take responsibility or admit error for a horrendously conceived policy, nor for providing Iran with arms to launch fresh offensives against Iraq. In fact, he defended his policy of seeking influence in the Iranian government through providing Tehran with arms. This policy was not only in contradiction to stated American neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war, but it also no doubt encouraged Iran to attack Basra and other Iraqi targets. We may rightly ask the American president if he assumes responsibility for the death and destruction which has taken place in Iran over the last few months.

There was no mention of regret or apology by Mr. Reagan for following an Israeli-inspired policy of support for a country which poses a military threat to the Arab World. It seems that such a policy is acceptable to the Reagan administration. He has not even apologised for telling the Arab countries one thing, and doing exactly the opposite.

What are we to conclude from Mr. Reagan's speech; his focus on process and reticence over policy? One thing appears abundantly clear. President Reagan has no qualms about working with Israel to assist a country at war with an Arab country. This is one ominous but unavoidable conclusion from the president's address.

This suggests that the Reagan administration has learned little from its soul-searching reexamination about the folly of its Middle East policy. We now have a U.S. administration with new faces and a new structure, but with the same biased policy. It appears that, despite the political storm stirred in the United States over the Iran arms scandal, "we in the Arab World should expect little change from the 'new' administration — just more of the same."

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. media defends Zionism

A certain number of American newspapers are busy at the moment with a campaign directed against the proposed Middle East international peace conference. These papers seem to be reflecting the Zionist movement's fears of such a conference which has won the endorsement of the European Community. These newspapers are once again drumming up the idea of "direct negotiations" which Israel has been calling for, and inviting Jordan to enter into direct negotiations with Israel outside the proposed conference. These newspapers and those who stand behind them seem to have failed to understand that Jordan cannot serve as an agent for the Palestinian people, nor can it act for them in any negotiations for peace. On the whole, the campaign can never force Jordan to abandon its position nor will it impede the peace process that will go through that conference. This campaign, led by the New York Times, has a clear message: Forces that are hostile to peace in our region do not want to budge from their negative stand and that these forces are determined to abort all efforts that steer this region towards real peace. This situation should prompt the Arabs and the Europeans to take a firm position and intensify their efforts for holding such a conference as soon as possible, and at the same time, persuade Washington of the need of such international parley for achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Al Dustour: Lesson for the U.S.

THE sentencing of Jonathan Pollard to life imprisonment was tantamount to issuing a certificate incriminating the state of Israel. As it was not enough for Israel to receive unlimited support and financial and military help from its ally, it resorted to planting spies like Pollard to get the secrets of a nation that has been providing means of subsistence to Israel. This instance of a country spying in such a manner on an ally could be unprecedented in international relations. The planting of Israeli spies in America reflects Israel's views that all that the United States has been giving to Israel and all the support it has been providing to the Jewish state was not sufficient. Israel and the United States are closely connected and Washington has been condoning Israel's long series of violations in the Arab region and supporting Israel blindly at world organisations. But, in view of the exposure of the new Israeli espionage activity we would like to urge the United States to take lessons from the past and regard its Israeli ally as a traitor, one that betrays the trust and commits shameful actions. We have heard statements by U.S. officials saying that the outcome of the affair would not damage the relations between the U.S. and Israel, and we wonder if this represents the official American position.

Sawt Al Shaab: Lebanon's peace

THE Lebanese leaders are nowadays involved in long consultations and debates about a formula for ending the civil strife in their country and re-establishing peace and security for all factions and communities. This is a necessary step that paves the way for a lasting peace and progress which should be the aim of all factions and political groups. The ideal thing is to work out a formula that ensures the rights of all factions without the fear of one community or political group imposing its domination on the others. Those involved in the discussions and consultations should take into consideration the Arab character of Lebanon and its affiliation to the motherland away from any foreign influences. The political leaders of Lebanon are called on to take precautionary measures against the interference of Zionist agents who can only poison the atmosphere and obstruct detente. The Lebanese should realise that their interests lie primarily with the Arab World, and their progress and their existence are closely connected with the rest of the Arab countries specially with Syria, their closest neighbour which continues to provide help and support for the Lebanese people. We hope that the on-going war "we and the current talks in Damascus will lead to a lasting peace."

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Are we over or under taxed?

THERE are two extreme points of view regarding the size of the tax burden on Jordanians. Some argue that tax is very low, while others argue that it is too high.

The opponents of "low tax" say that tax revenues are minimal, hardly covering 50 per cent of the total public expenditure. They say that in order for the government to raise funds it resorts to external financial resources, mainly borrowing.

The other group believes that tax burden in Jordan is too excessive and that it could be one of the highest imposed on any people. They say that despite the fact that income tax is low, other taxes and rates account for a huge amount of the national income.

Obviously, the tax burden in Jordan is very high as a percentage of domestic income, but it is also very low as a percentage of the central government budget. This fact indicates that the distortion does not lie in the revenue side which grew out of proportion and beyond the means of the Jordanian economy.

In a country where gross national product in market prices does not exceed JD 1,420 million (1986), it is quite inconceivable that the

budget of the central government alone should have been as high as JD 1,018 million. And if one adds on top the budgets of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and the municipalities, which are covered through direct taxes on people that do not show up in the government budget, the burden becomes quite visible.

Let us assume roughly that the SSC collects some JD 120 million a year in deductions and charges on salaries of the private sector, which is no doubt, an outright direct tax. And if we also estimate that municipalities collect around JD 100 million in property taxes and other fees on services and fuel, which is also direct tax. This means that no less than 87 per cent of the national income should be absorbed by taxes of all kinds to the central and local governments if we want to cover their budgets' needs without dependence on external aid or local and foreign loans. This is simply an impossible ratio to achieve.

The real tax burden shouldered by the Jordanian people comprises JD 435 million paid annually to the central government, and JD 220 million payable to the SSC and all municipalities, a total of JD 655

million, or 46 per cent of the national income, a ratio unheard of in any developing country, and too high even by the standards of the advanced industrialised nations.

If these figures and ratios are correct, or even close to depicting the picture, or if the tax burden in Jordan is higher than 35 per cent of the net national income, then the reform of our fiscal policies and the remedies to improve the situation should not be confined to the imposition of more taxes and fees. That reform should take place in the area of reducing the public expenditure of the central government. Our budget should stop growing at any rate, and if possible, should even shrink gradually at a reasonable annual rate.

We are of course fully aware that budget reduction is an extremely painful measure to be taken by any government. It calls for huge sacrifices, and claims many victims but, in the light of the given figures and rates of the present tax burden, we cannot see a different course of action. Some measure must be taken if we want to base our financial position and policies on sound and sustainable basis over the next years.

Kaunda sees grim past, bright future for independent Africa

By Robert Powell
Reuter

LUSAKA — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda believes Africa is the continent of the future, despite powerful forces for destabilisation which have beset its emerging countries.

"We have experienced many upsets," Kaunda told Reuters in an interview to mark the 30th anniversary last Friday of independent Ghana, the first black African nation to shed colonial rule.

Kaunda, who led his own country to independence in 1964, added: "Military coups have taken place. Counter-coups have taken place ... In the economic field there have been grave difficulties."

"A number of leading African countries today — leading in terms of population — have not managed to find a formula for political stability," he added.

Kaunda has led Zambia since independence from Britain and today plays a major role in African affairs as chairman of the frontline states — the six black-ruled states most deeply involved in the struggle against South Africa's apartheid.

Despite his gloomy assessment of the early years of independence, Kaunda said he still believed that "Africa, properly handled, is the continent of the future."

"We have first and foremost a

growing population. Secondly we have natural resources which are hardly tapped, so what we require is stability, careful thought and planning," he said.

Kaunda, a devout Christian who has developed his own brand of social democracy which he calls humanism, said Africa needed to develop societies based on "love, truth, social justice and fair play."

European colonial powers were partly to blame for the political failures of Africa's independent states, because they had failed to prepare them for self-rule, Kaunda said.

"No colonial power ever taught any one of us how to build democracies. The whole colonial fabric was a fabric of oppression and suppression," he said.

"Zambia, for instance, at independence had only 100 university graduates. That is after the British colonial power had pumped out so much copper," he added.

"At independence, we have not learned anything by way of democracy. Our own zeal to fight for what we believed to be right and just ... was all that we had by way of guidelines towards a democratic society," Kaunda added.

"All the instruments of power were in the hands of foreigners and this was not peculiar to Zambia, it was a common feature of all African countries," Kaunda said.

The intrusion of superpower

conflicts into Africa and the fall in the value of Africa's commodity exports were other factors which had tended to destabilise the emerging states, he said.

"The forces of destabilisation were so powerful that what is surprising, in my opinion, is that there are still some African countries ticking as they are today."

Kaunda pointed to the persistence of white-dominated rule in South Africa as a potential volcano that could blow apart the whole of southern Africa.

"This situation in southern Africa is going to escalate," he predicted, arguing that economic sanctions were the only form of peaceful pressure which might succeed in abolishing apartheid without a bloodbath.

Landlocked Zambia still relies on rail routes to South African ports to carry about half its foreign trade, but Kaunda said the country hoped to cut its air links with South Africa this year in coordination with other black-ruled African states.

He described the proposed air embargo as Zambia's "key area of operations" in its campaign for global economic sanctions against the white-led government in Pretoria.

Kaunda said the main problem facing African economies was "a terrifyingly exploitative economic order."

"I see slave conditions in the so-called Third World ... We are being reduced to the status of beggars," he said.

The only way out of Africa's "vicious circle" of declining export income and increasing debt was to improve the pricing of its commodity exports, he said.

Zambia relies on copper and other mineral exports for 95 to 98 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings and Kaunda pointed out that the country's economy had suffered from a slump in copper prices since the early 1970s.

But the president said that despite many difficulties, Zambians had managed to take over the running of their own country and maintain its unity and stability.

"For us, the greatest blessing we have had is that in spite of the turmoil all around us, the wars of liberation and the counter-activities of the racists south of us, Zambia has remained true to its slogan: 'One Zambia, one nation.' Stability has been the hallmark of our operations," he said.

Kaunda recognised that many veteran African leaders were reluctant to quit power, despite their advancing age, but said he did not see this as a factor giving rise to traumatic leadership changes.

"The forces that lead to instability are, in my opinion, far removed from the sort of period one serves," said Kaunda.

Finally, he defended the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) as "the best organised of all continental organisations," despite its failure to deal effectively with many problems on the continent.

Keuneth Kaunda

more progress towards unity and towards more effectiveness," he said.

Maltese fear election violence

By Joe Scicluna
Reuter

VALLETTA — An undercurrent of political tension runs through the Mediterranean island of Malta as campaigning gathers pace for an election which will pass judgment on 15 years of Socialist rule.

The election atmosphere was charged by a burst of political violence last November.

Now politicians are trying hard to cool passions for fear that another outbreak of trouble could frighten away tourists, the lifeblood of a stagnating economy.

The election has to be held by the middle of May but Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici has delayed announcing polling day. Political pundits think it will be in early May.

Mifsud Bonnici, a 53-year-old lawyer by profession, has been chosen by his party to take over the reins in December 1984, is seeking a fourth five-year term for the Labour Party.

But the vote promises to be a close-run contest yet again with the right-wing Nationalist Party headed by another lawyer Edward Fenech Adami, also 53.

Violence flared in November 23 people injured in clashes during a Nationalist march. Four had gunshot wounds. A week later a Nationalist supporter was shot dead.

The violence put a damper on electioneering. Some incidents have been reported since then but nothing serious. Scuffles broke out at a rally last week but no-one was hurt.

"The tension is just below the surface," said one longtime resident of the capital Valletta.

Malta, lying between Italy and Libya and home to 330,000 people, has become so politically polarised over the past few years there is likely to be little movement of supporters from one party to the other.

The Nationalists say many Labourites have gone over to them and Mifsud Bonnici has acknowledged some "lost sheep" which must be brought back into the Labour fold.

In the last election in December 1981, the Nationalists won 51 per cent of the vote but Labour ended up in power with more seats — 34 to 31 in the 65-member parliament.

Now the constitution has been amended to ensure that in future



Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici

the party with more than 50 per cent of the vote will have majority representation.

With the two parties so closely balanced, new voters — youths who have never voted before — could tip the balance.

Both parties are addressing the interests of the young at rallies where attendances of 100,000 are not uncommon.

Labour boasts of creating new schools, training schemes and free university education.

But the economy is the key election issue, with unemployment hovering around six per cent of the workforce, wages frozen for the last four years, industry lagging and exports struggling.

The Nationalists accuse the government for mismanagement of the economy in general and failure to create permanent jobs and attract foreign investment in particular.

Labour blames the country's problems on the international recession and says it is beginning to turn the country towards a better economic environment.

Last year Malta signed a trade accord with Moscow to open the way for increased exports, mainly textiles.

The Soviet Union has ordered 16 small ships from Malta and will be sending more merchant ships for repair and refit.

Malta also signed an aid package with Italy and trade with Libya is increasing again after a sharp drop.

The balance of payments pulled out of the red last year with a surplus of nearly \$14 million.

Tourism is on the verge of a boom and could give the economy a vital boost. The number of visitors is confidently expected to surpass the 1986 influx of 573,000 which brought in earnings of nearly \$170 million.

ing bas clung to power.

The former British colony's traditional ties with the West, particularly the United States, have been allowed to cool. Bnt to gain support from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Rawlings has had to follow more conservative economic policies.

He was born in Accra on June 22, 1947, the son of a Scottish retail chemist and a mother from Ghana's Ewe tribe. Mixed marriages were a rarity in pre-independent Ghana, then a British colony called the Gold Coast.

After school at Achimota, one of the best English-speaking academies in West Africa, where he was remembered as a rebel, he enrolled in the Ghana military academy at Teshie and was commissioned as a pilot officer in 1969.

A bureaucratic mistake at Teshie led to his name, originally Jerry Rawlings John, being registered as Jerry John Rawlings. The name stuck when supporters demonstrated in favour of "J.J." or "Junior Jesus."

Rawlings first won world attention

on June 4, 19

Ford, aided by space technology, returns to Mideast

By Rory Channing
Reuter

KUWAIT — The American carmaker Ford, diplomatically helped by space technology, has launched a strong comeback in the Arab World after being blacklisted for 20 years.

Its return coincides with an upheaval in the market, with America's arch-rivals from Japan hard-pressed to stem an erosion in their sales dominance because of the strong yen.

The Arab League, judging Ford to have complied with its rules barring dealings with Israel, in 1985 lifted a boycott slapped on the company for selling vehicles for assembly there.

Company officials say the work of Ford's aerospace unit in assisting Arab states to set up a satellite communications network helped to restore ties and smoothed its way.

The Detroit-based automaker made a fresh start in Kuwait last November, forming a new dealership from scratch, and has since started selling through established outlets in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Peter Benham, Ford's marketing manager in Kuwait, said sales were running at around 70 units a month — "much better than we thought."

The other three Gulf states, he said, had "staggering results," each selling initial stocks of 46 to 68 luxury cars in a couple of days.

A second Saudi outlet is planned and dealerships will be added this year in Oman and Qatar. "We believe Ford has an extremely attractive range of cars and trucks to offer the Middle East customer and we plan to obtain our fair share of the Arab marketplace," said Jerry Hender-

son, Ford sales vice-president, before the UAE launch.

Ford enjoys the huge sales advantage to U.S. exporters resulting from the dollar's slide since 1985. But the Middle East market has shrunk, perhaps by 60 per cent in 1986 alone, Benham said.

Recession from diminished oil revenues is biting and the Iran-Iraq war has crippled two potentially rich markets.

Also, Ford's U.S. rival, General Motors (GM), is gearing up to boost its presence in the region.

GM got the go-ahead last June for a carmaking joint-venture in Egypt, which company officials said would serve as a strategic regional base in the most popu-

lous Arab Nation. It is expected to start up later this year.

Ford, in targeting the thinly-populated Gulf states with the world's top incomes per capita, is aiming for quality sales at the expense of volume.

"On these kinds of cars, the Japanese aren't a factor... GM and the luxury (West) German car would be the main rivals," said Ken Brown, a Ford spokesman in Detroit.

The LTD Crown Victoria, Mercury Grand Marquis and Lincoln Towncar series were shown at the launch and will be followed by the Mercury Sable and Taurus, among others.

Ford is initially selling only U.S.-made models, at prices

ranging from around \$19,000 to \$36,000. Its dealers reckon they have an edge, since both the yen and mark have risen strongly against dollar-tied Gulf currencies.

"It's a very suitable (launch) time. It would not have come at a better time for Ford," said Naeem Shakir, of the Dubai-based Galadari Brothers trading group, Ford agents in the UAE.

Ford backers are counting on initial novelty appeal maturing into a firm attraction for prestige alternatives to GM models. West Germany's Mercedes-Benz, Audi and BMW and top-range Japanese saloons.

This may take time. "Even in the Gulf, buyers are cost-con-

sious now," said one dealer. Wealthy merchants who changed their car every year during the oil boom now keep them longer.

A big hurdle for Ford, say dealers for other manufacturers, is a growing sense of brand loyalty to their models, nurtured through years of after-sales service.

The yen had risen by 40 per cent against the dollar in 18 months and Japanese vehicle sales to the Middle East declined by 45 per cent between 1982 and 1985. Then, with exports of 400,000 vehicles, it clung to 70 per cent of a smaller market.

Full details of sales for 1986 are hard to get, but informal trade and diplomatic estimates suggest

Japan still had one-half or more of the market for new passenger cars, trucks and buses.

These estimates give U.S. and European manufacturers roughly one-fifth of the market each. South Korea, with its won currency closely aligned to the dollar, has emerged as a notable new competitor.

In Kuwait, for instance, Hyundai and other small or medium-sized South Korean makes came from nowhere in 1985 to take 10 per cent of last year's sales.

Prospects for significant expansion outside the western Gulf Arab states, by Ford or other manufacturers, appear remote.

In Tunisia, dominated by French firms Renault and Peugeot, strict import curbs imposed for the past two years because of balance of payments problems have hit foreign car makers.

Local assembly of cars, lorries and commercial vehicles fell by one-half last year and Renault's local assembly plant was forced to close last December for three months.

In Jordan, where Ford had 60 to 70 per cent of the market before the Arab boycott, a sharp rise in customs duties since 1981 dealt a blow to imports of big-engined U.S. cars. New registrations have fallen by over two-thirds.

In Iraq, newcomers have to contend with Mercedes-Benz as the top choice for state and party leaders while top-grade Japanese saloons have a unique role as awards to military officers for bravery.

Other army personnel can buy Volkswagen Passats under an oil-for-cars deal with VW's Brazilian line involving 150,000 vehicles, but the average customer has to wait years for a car.

Tourism takes over from oil as Tunisia's top cash earner

By Charles Dick
Reuter

pended its membership of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), after less than five years in the group, and is preparing to become a net importer of oil by around 1990.

The country produces around 100,000 barrels a day, but it has to import nearly 50 per cent of the oil and petroleum products it needs, because it requires grades not found locally and because capacity is limited at the country's only refinery, in the northern port of Bizerte.

The government says this year's outlook for tourism is bright, with figures expected to continue upwards after picking up in the latter half of 1986.

Heavy rains also mean that this year's grain crop outlook is good after a poor performance in 1986.

In another major shift affecting the economy, Tunisia has come under an International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme for the first time after borrowing \$250 million in November during an acute balance of payments crisis.

Total foreign debts are due to equal about 60 per cent of gross national product this year.

The economy recovery programme included a 10 per cent devaluation of the dinar last year and sets out guidelines for a liberalisation of import duties and prices.

The government has continued to reduce subsidies on basic foodstuffs such as bread, olive oil and sugar, which Western economic analysts say has pushed the inflation rate to more than 15 per cent in recent months. The official rate was 7.8 per cent in 1985.

Yugoslav prodigy violinist hailed as new Paganini

By Vjekoslav Radovic
Reuter

called by the Italian magazine Domenica Del Corriere.

BELGRADE — Like many other 10-year-old boys, Stefan Milenkovic likes kicking a football or playing with toy guns. He also likes getting standing ovations.

British journalists have been taken to Switzerland by Eurotunnel to see a series of privately run rail tunnels which have been successfully carrying passengers in their cars through tunnels up to 20 km long for more than 30 years.

The trip was aimed at countering criticisms raised in parliament by members and others that Eurotunnel's plans to carry passengers in the same carriages as their cars is unsafe.

Stefan was born into a musical family in the quiet Belgrade suburb of Zemun. By his 10th birthday in January, he had played 400 concerts to enraptured audiences in the United States, the Soviet Union, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Austria.

He fell in love with a Yugoslav girl and never returned to Italy. Stefan met his Italian relatives for the first time on his Italian tour last October.

When Stefan's parents became aware of his talent, the violin ceased to be a toy and his father began to work with him seriously for ten minutes a day.

"I increased the drill by five minutes every three months. Now he practises 140 minutes a day and will eventually go up to 160 minutes."

Stefan said he had no favourites in his repertoire: "It's all the same to me — I like them all — Paganini, Mozart, Brahms or Tchaikovsky."

Success has changed many things in the life of the family.

They will soon move to a bigger apartment in the centre of town.

Fading Bolivian city shines once a year with dancing devils

By Kevin Noblet
The Associated Press

ORURO, Bolivia — The fearsome, frog-eyed devil is again loose on the streets of this sky-high Bolivian city.

The populace shrieks with delight, the city fathers burst with pride, the tourists flock in, the peasants get drunk and the police grow vexed.

It is the pre-lenten season of carnival, when in many cities and towns across the Latin world workaday reality gives way to an orgy of costumed dance, parade and drink.

For Oruro, a fading trade and mining centre of 70,000 inhabitants, it is a rare chance to shine. For no one does carnival quite like here, 3,720 metres above sea level on the desolate "Altiplano" or high plain.

While the carnivals of Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans may be larger in scale, the celebration in Oruro sticks to its mystical, religious origins.

In a three-day spectacle starting the Saturday before Lent, participants dance along a nine-kilometre route that winds through the narrow, dusty streets accompanied by brass bands in frayed pin-striped suits playing a unique mixture of marching music and Indian tunes.

Best known are the "diablos," or devils, with their towering and elaborate masks of many colours. Their bloodshot eyes are the size of grapefruits, their tongues are serpents. Long, curving horns rise out of a head of hair made up of twisting snakes and lizards.

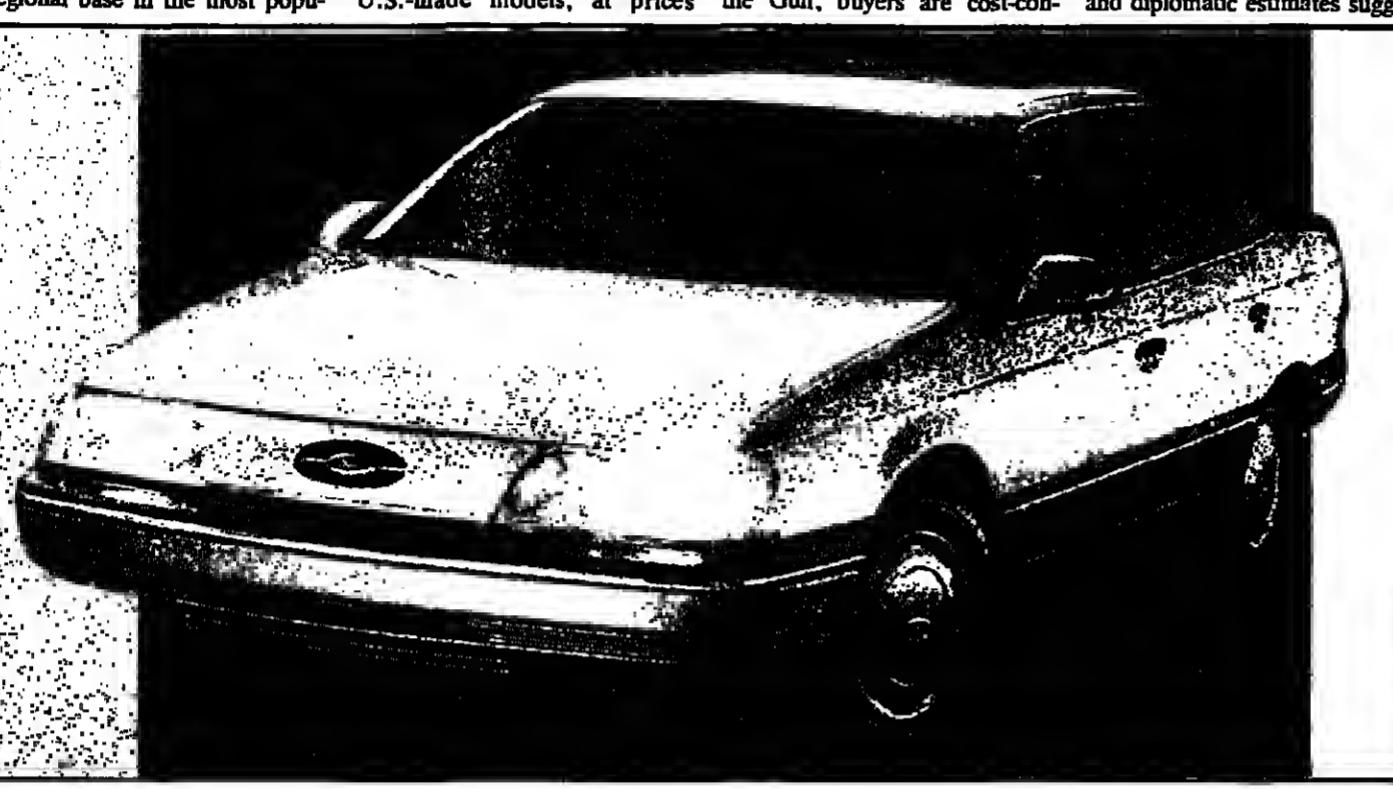
Alongside are the she-devils, their wide-eyed masks frozen in a death grip and their short skirts whirling to reveal a lot of gartered leg, petticoats and frilly underwear.

Other dancers portray Incan rulers, Spanish conquerors, bears and condors. A highly popular theme is the "morenos," or dark ones, representing black slaves carted in by the colonialists to press grapes or work in the region's tin and silver mines. Their multicoloured tongues loll from exhaustion as they are led along by roaring, whip-wielding slave masters.

Exhaustion need not be feared. The more elaborate costumes weigh 50 kilogrammes or more. Shouldering that weight over the long course in the thin air of the Altiplano can only be accomplished by those who have lived here long enough for their blood to have grown rich in the red cells needed to make up for the scarce oxygen. Even then, months of training is conducted.

"We have great stamina," boasted Roberto Rodriguez, a 33-year-old Oruro native who works as a mechanic when he isn't dancing as a devil. He said trials runs are held each Sunday for four months before the event.

"We don't have any problems because we practice so much," Rodriguez said.



Eurotunnel vision marks a modest occasion

Plans for a tunnel between Britain and France have not gone smoothly in the past year. Will the company face less choppy waters in the second year of operation? Andrew Taylor examines the problems facing the Channel link.

LONDON — A small party has been held in London and Paris to celebrate the first anniversary of the decision by the British and French governments to give the go-ahead to plans to link their countries by a 31-mile rail tunnel under the Channel.

The celebrations organised by Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French consortium of bankers, construction and engineering groups which won the concession to build the tunnel, were considered to be much more subdued than the flag-waving jamboree in Lille last year when Mrs. Thatcher and President Mitterrand announced their promise.

The consortium still has much to do if one of the world's greatest construction ventures is to go ahead.

The next 190 days or so will be crucial for Eurotunnel. It plans to complete the financing arrangements for the tunnel's construction with a £750 million (\$1.15 billion) international share issue in July.

If that fails, loans and standby credits worth more than £5 billion with about 40 international banks might be in jeopardy.

Before the issue can take place, parliament will have to have passed the Channel Tunnel Bill and ratified the treaty signed with France last February.

A similar process will have to be completed in France, where opposition to the project is much less intense than in Britain.

Eurotunnel recognises that it

will have to fight a much more vigorous campaign if this summer's issue, taking the total equity raised to £1 billion, is not to run into similar difficulties.

It plans to offer the shares for the first time to the general public in Britain and France, after which it will seek a quote for the shares on the London and Paris stock exchanges.

The factors which shook investors' confidence in October were the lack of a market... for the consortium's shares; the fact that its management team was still being assembled; and the political uncertainty surrounding the project.

A third factor which might upset the plans is the timing of the British general election. At best, an early election would put the bill on hold while the campaign is fought. A Conservative victory would leave the project intact, but any other outcome might jeopardise the tunnel — particularly if a Labour government adheres to its plan to hold a public inquiry into the proposals.

It is those matters on which Eurotunnel will be concentrating as it celebrates its first birthday on January 20. Most important of all, for the consortium, will be to kindle investment enthusiasm for the project. By its own admission, that will be absent when it comes to raise the final £750 million.

It is also looking at possibilities of issuing different types of equity to overcome objections from investment institutions concerned that first dividends will be paid until after the tunnel opens in 1993. One option may be to offer a convertible loan stock.

The likely constitution of underwriting syndicates for the issue is also being considered while Eurotunnel, according to its own timetable, must also shortly conclude detailed loan and standby credit agreements with its bankers.

Above all, Eurotunnel recognises that it must become more visible if it is to succeed. By its own admission, the consortium's publicity campaign over the past 12 months has not been as effective as it might have been against criticisms of the safety and viability of the scheme.

A £10 million advertising contract has been awarded to the advertising agency Collett Dickenson Pearce by Eurotunnel, which expects shortly to launch a television advertisement in Britain to support its publicity campaign for the issue.

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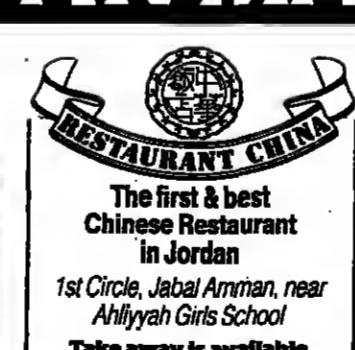
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JORDAN MARKET PLACE



Liverpool takes league lead

LONDON (R) — Liverpool, who led the English First Division for a brief seven-day spell in January, went top for only the second time this season when it took its revenge on FA Cup conqueror Luton.

A 2-0 victory at Anfield, courtesy of a Jan Molby penalty and an own goal by Luton defender Mal Donaghy, lifted Liverpool three points ahead of fellow citizens Everton.

But Liverpool's grip on first place could be even shorter this time, however, because Everton will go above it again on goal difference if it wins at Watford Sunday.

Third-placed Arsenal, chasing a unique trophy treble, suffered an understandable reaction in its four-hour League Cup semifinal victory over Tottenham last week at London neighbour Chelsea, where it lost 1-0.

Chelsea had eight first-team squad members unavailable through injury, illness and suspension and was forced to recall tiny striker Colin West, who has been on loan with Scottish First Division club Partick Thistle.

West, 19 years old and only 1.65 metres tall, made an immediate impact on his debut by scoring the winner after five minutes when he seized on a rare David O'Leary error and tucked a firm shot neatly past Arsenal goalkeeper John Lukic.

FA Cup quarter-finalist Arsenal, now four points adrift with a

time when Donaghy had the misfortune to turn the ball past his own goalkeeper during another Liverpool surge.

Tottenham bounced back from the League Cup disappointment with a gritty 1-0 home win over Queen's Park Rangers which left it eight points adrift of Liverpool, but with two games in hand.

Almost inevitably, Clive Allen scored the winner with a 59th minute penalty, his 40th goal of an extraordinary year which should see him overtake Jimmy Greaves as Tottenham's top scorer in a single season.

Glasgow Rangers remained top of the Scottish Premier League on goal difference, despite running up against some unexpected stiff resistance at lowly Falkirk, where it won 2-1 thanks to two first half goals from striker Ally McCoist.

Glasgow Celtic maintained its challenge in second place by beating Motherwell 3-1 at home. Scotland World Cup midfielder Roy Aitken put Celtic ahead and further goals from Brian McClair and Tony Shepherd sealed Motherwell's fate.

Third-placed Dundee United, who beat Barcelona in the UEFA Cup in midweek, slipped three points behind Rangers but with a game in hand when it was held to a 1-1 draw at home by Clydebank.

Molby converted the resultant penalty with typical nonchalance and Liverpool increased its advantage five minutes from half-

American NBA roundup

Johnson helps Pistons over Mavericks

DETROIT (AP) — Vinnie Johnson helped the Pistons survive a disastrous first half to defeat the Dallas Mavericks 125-115 in a battle of division leaders in the National Basketball Association.

Johnson's teammates were 12-for-37 from the field in the first two periods against the Mavericks, but Johnson was 10-for-15 off the bench to keep the Pistons within 11 points at halftime.

Johnson finished with 28 points, while Bill Laimbeer had 24 points and 18 rebounds. Adrian Dantley scored 23 points and Isiah Thomas 22.

Elsewhere in the NBA, it was Boston 132, Los Angeles Clippers 111; Atlanta 111, New Jersey 83; Philadelphia 123, Washington 113; Utah 124, Milwaukee 123; New York 110, Chicago 109; and San Antonio 130, Sacramento 119.

Boston, despite missing Larry Bird because of a sprained back, easily handled Los Angeles as

Kevin McHale hit 16 of 20 field-goal attempts and scored 35 points.

Fred Roberts, starting in place of Bird, contributed 17 points, while Danny Ainge scored 20, Robert Parish had 18 and Dennis Johnson added a season-high 16 assists. None of the five starters played in the fourth period as the Celtics took a 105-79 lead into the final quarter.

Philadelphia's Cliff Robinson, playing in his first game since Feb. 23 because of an eye infection, had no trouble finding the basket as he scored 26 points against the Bullets.

It was the first victory for the 76ers over Washington in four games this season as they finally found a way to contain former teammate Moses Malone, who had 34 points and 49 rebounds in the three previous meetings between the two teams.

Atlanta won its fifth straight game as Dominique Wilkins

scored 10 of his 17 points in the first quarter, giving the Hawks the lead for good against New Jersey.

In Milwaukee, John Stockton scored 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter, including a turnaround jumper with nine seconds left, as Utah rallied from a 19-point deficit to win at Milwaukee for the first time in eight tries since Dec. 30, 1979.

Milwaukee was led by Jack Sikma's 20 points and 15 rebounds.

In Chicago, Patrick Ewing scored 31 points, including a 12-foot jumper with 10 seconds remaining, and Gerald Wilkins scored 33 points, lifting New York over Chicago for its third straight victory.

Michael Jordan finished with 27 points, 10 under his average, and eight steals.

In San Antonio, Alvin Robertson and Mike Mitchell scored 27 points apiece for San Antonio against Sacramento. The Spurs clinched the victory by scoring their final six points from the free-throw line.

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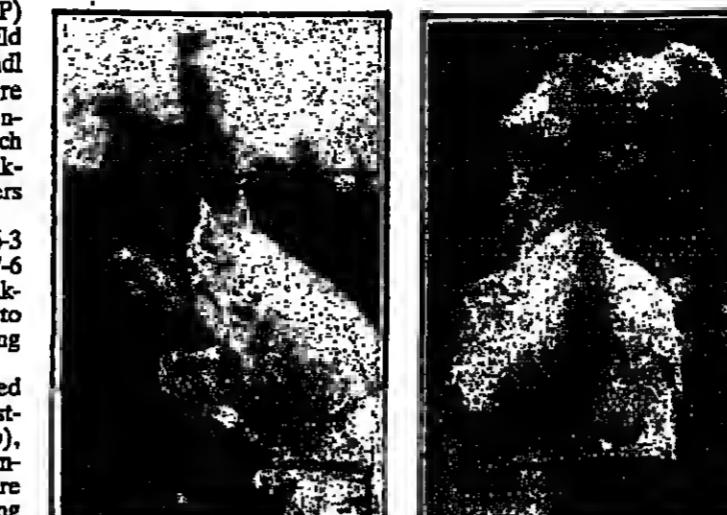
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Rain cools tempers, halts wild Lendl-Connors match



Jimmy Connors

Ivan Lendl

Kaufman then stopped the match because the rain was beginning to fall more heavily.

Last year in the semifinals, Connors walked off the court in the fifth set to protest fine calls. Connors, who was trailing 5-2 when he quit, was suspended 10 weeks and fined \$25,000 for his behaviour.

In other men's semifinal, fourth seeded Yannick Noah was scheduled to play ninth-seeded Milosz Macie. But Noah's status is in ques-

tion. He pulled out of a doubles match Thursday because of a shoulder injury suffered in his quarterfinal victory over Mats Wilander. A release from the Association of Tennis Professionals said Noah hopes his sprained right shoulder will respond to treatment and he will attempt to play.

Second-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd and third-seeded Steffi Graf are scheduled to play in the women's final Saturday.

Soviets claim early honours; Ireland's Coghlan falls at indoor athletics meet

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — American Hurdler Greg Foster captured the world record he has been chasing all year while the Soviet Union claimed the early honours at the World Indoor Athletics Championships.

The 28-year-old Foster, who had predicted fast times on the magnificent man-made surface, swept home in his 60 metres hurdles heat in 7.46 seconds — shaving 0.01 seconds off the mark Canadian Mark McKoy set in March last year and Foster equalled in San Diego 12 days ago.

But the Soviet Union claimed the first golds on the opening day of the inaugural three-day championships.

Natalya Lisovskaya left her best till late to snatch the women's shot title from a class field after 30-year-old Siberian mother Olga Krishetop had demolished the world record to take the 3,000 metres walk crown.

Friday began clouded in controversy and confusion after favourite Eamonn Coghlan fell and failed to qualify for the 1,500 metres final.

After an appeal by Irish team manager Ronnie Long, meeting referee John Chaplin added the 34-year-old veteran's name to the nine-man final field — only to have the appeals jury overturn the decision less than an hour later, leaving the world 5,000 metres champion out of the championships.

Coghlan was one of five competitors here with a chance of completing a unique set of world championships golds after winning titles at the inaugural Outdoor Championships in Helsinki four years ago.

Foster is another. He left no

doubt about his qualification with a tremendous run to finally claim the record he first bettered in Los Angeles in January when he clocked 7.36 seconds. But the Olympic silver medalist was denied the record when the race was later ruled a false start.

Friday night Foster was away superbly and said afterwards: "I let off a little earlier at the finish than I should have. There is still something there."

Lisovskaya, the outdoor world record holder, captured the gold on the final put of the competition with a superb 20.52 metres effort to deny East German Inga Briesenick. West German 1984 Olympic champion Claudia Losch won the bronze.

It was Lisovskaya's first major championship title, although she claimed World and European

cup victories in 1985.

Losch then snatched control with a fourth round 20.14 only to see Briesenick recapture it moments later in the same round with a 20.18 attempt, then strengthen her grip on the lead in the penultimate round with a heave of 20.28 metres.

East German Heidi Krieger, who won the outdoor European gold in Stuttgart last year, and another Soviet Natalya Akhremenco, who won the European indoor crown in France two weeks ago, finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Krishtop sliced more than 25 seconds off the previous 3,000 metres walk mark set by Italian Giuliana Salice as she romped to victory in 12 minutes 05.49 seconds.

Esparragoza captures WBA title

FORT WORTH, Texas (R) — Antonio Esparragoza of Venezuela put an end to 14 months of frustration when he stopped champion Steve Cruz in the 12th round to take away his World Boxing Association (WBA) featherweight crown.

Esparragoza's punches took a terrible toll on the American's eyes, and the referee stopped the bout 32 seconds before the end of the 12th after the almost blind Cruz had hit the canvas twice in front of his hometown crowd.

Cruz, who was defending for the first time the title he won last June from Ireland's Barry McGuigan, struggled early in the fight, scheduled to go 15 rounds, and never took control.

"I thought his hardest punch was his right hand and I took that," Cruz said. "But he also had power in his wide looping left hook and it took its toll."

Twenty seconds later, Cruz was on the canvas, the victim of a left hook. After another 30 seconds, Cruz was down again and referee Wiso Fernandez decided he had taken enough punishment.

Esparragoza, the number one contender for 14 months who had avoided McGuigan of avoiding him, hurt Cruz in the fourth, pinning him on the ropes with a series of jabs to the body and left hooks to the head.

In the 11th, Esparragoza was clearly the aggressor, pinning Cruz on the ropes. The fight was stopped at one stage to allow the doctor to check Cruz's vision.

At the start of the 12th round Cruz's left eye was completely swollen shut and Esparragoza immediately began punishing it. He caught Cruz with two jabs to the head and an uppercut, then another jab to the head, and the doctor was brought in again.

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Applicants will be interviewed during week commencing March 14th.

Gavaskar becomes first to score 10,000 test runs

AHMEDABAD, India (R) — Sunil Gavaskar, the "little master" of Indian cricket, Saturday became the first batsman to score 10,000 runs in test cricket.

Gavaskar, on 57 after tea on the third day of the fourth test against Pakistan, needed one run to reach five figures when he cut Ejaz Fakih for two, triggering a mass pitch invasion.

Play was held up for several minutes as spectators raced on to the ground to congratulate Gavaskar and thousands of others gave him a lengthy standing ovation. A child garlanded the Bombay batsman.

Gavaskar, who has hit a record 34 test centuries, said of the unique landmark: "It was just a moment of sheer joy for me."

He said he did not mentally prepare himself for creating test history and had batted as in any other match.

Gavaskar, now 37, made his test debut on the 1970-71 tour of West Indies. "When I started

playing test cricket my aim was not to make a fool of myself," he said.

Four centuries and a total of 774 runs in the four-match series proved India had found a batsman of rare talents who has so far notched up 12 test appearances.

Gavaskar has said he will retire soon, probably at the end of the Indian media.

England's Geoff Boycott holds second place in the list of all-time test run scorers with 8,114. West Indian Gary Sobers is third with 8,032.

Australian captain Allan Border, West Indian captain Viv Richards and England's David Gower are the current players nearest to Gavaskar's record with around 6,000 runs.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Kuwait qualifies for Olympics

DOHA, (R) — Kuwait beat Iran 1-0 (0-0) Saturday to qualify for next year's Olympic Games' soccer tournament in Seoul. Scorer: Faisal Al Dakhil (87th minute).

Istanbul-Kiev match rescheduled

ISTANBUL (R) — Besiktas of Istanbul and Dynamo Kiev of the Soviet Union have rescheduled the first leg of their European Cup quarter final soccer tie for Istanbul on March 14, the Turkish club said. The match was postponed last Wednesday and then again Thursday and Friday because of snow in Istanbul. A Besiktas spokesman told Reuters the decision was approved by both clubs and by European soccer union (UEFA) officials. The match will start at 1230 GMT and the second leg will be played in Kiev on March 18.

Argentine coach's gun was a toy

BUENOS AIRES (R) — A gun former Argentine national team coach Cesar Menotti pulled on soccer fans who attacked him Thursday was a toy pistol, a judge said. "I received a police report today clarifying that the gun was a toy," La Plata Judge Horacio Piombo said Friday. Police found the gun in the visitors' changing rooms at Estudiantes Stadium, he said. Witnesses said Menotti took a gun from a bag and pointed it at a group of Estudiantes De La Plata fans who attacked and insulted him and his Boca Juniors players as they arrived to complete a First Division match that was suspended last November because of crowd trouble.

Tigana's lucky number provokes fine

PARIS (R) — Jean Tigana's affection for his lucky number 14 shirt has cost the French Foothall Federation a 5,000 Swiss franc (\$3,300) fine, the federation said. Tigana has carried number 14 since the 1982 World Cup but ran into trouble last November before the European Championship qualifying match against East Germany in Leipzig. The referee told Tigana the rulebook stated players should be numbered 1-11 and the kick-off was held up while the French midfielder argued his case. The game ended 0-0.

Italian captain to undergo surgery

TURIN, Italy (R) — Italian captain Antonin Cabrini undergoes a knee operation next week which will put him out of soccer for at least four months, officials at his Juventus club said Saturday. Defender Cabrini, 29, decided on the operation after doctors said he had aggravated a ligament injury in his left knee in a league match against Fiorentina last Sunday. Reigning Champion Juventus moved into second place in the league with last weekend's win, four points behind Napoli, with 10 weeks of the season to play.

Soviet sets superheavyweight mark

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet superheavyweight Leonid Tarancenko set a world record by lifting a total of 467.5 kilogrammes in two separate efforts, the TASS news agency said. TASS said the 30-year-old Tarancenko snatched 205 kilogrammes and jerked 262.5 kilogrammes to set the record Friday. It said his effort was 2.5 kilogrammes better than the previous record, held by Soviet Alexander Gulyayev.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

A third-floor apartment consisting of three spacious bedrooms, two bathrooms, three lounges, large kitchen, large glassed-in veranda with central heating. Apartment area: 210 sq.m.

Police enter Golden Temple to rescue 4 injured colleagues

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Hundreds of armed police entered the Golden Temple in Amritsar Saturday to rescue four plainclothes colleagues wounded in a gunbattle with Sikh extremist youths inside the shrine, police here said.

It was the first time uniformed security forces had entered Sikhdom's holiest shrine since last June when sword-wielding militants demanding an independent Sikh homeland stabbed a temple guard to death.

About 300 police and paramilitary security forces with rifles and automatic weapons stormed into the sacred complex to bring out the wounded men, police in Chandigarh, capital of India's troubled northern Punjab state, said.

They said trouble began when Sikhs seized an off-duty policeman who went to pay his respects to Darshan Singh, chief priest of the Akal Takht, a building in the complex considered the seat of spiritual authority for Sikhs.

The four plainclothes police were trying to rescue a man they heard was being tortured by members of the All-India Sikh Students Federation (AISFF) in a room beside the marble esplanade surrounding the temple's sacred pool.

Earlier, police sources said the man being tortured was thought to be a police informer. All four were wounded when they were fired on as they approached the room, police said. Two Sikh students were also wounded and police outside the temple gathered to storm in and rescue their colleagues.

A suspected extremist was killed when police entered the temple in April — the first raid since a full-scale army assault in June 1984 crushed armed Sikhs occupying the complex. At least 1,000 people died in the assault.

Control of the shrine is key to Sikh politics. Mr. Barnala is fighting to keep his minority government in office in the face of edicts from temple priests to disband his ruling faction of the Akal Takht and make way for more militant leaders.

In another incident in Punjab, suspected extremists killed a Sikh man Friday near Faridkot, bringing the unofficial death toll in extremist-related violence in the northern Indian state this month to 30.

Militants now control the temple and senior priests last month excommunicated Mr. Barnala from the Sikh religion for refusing to obey their edicts.

Rebels bomb dozen banks, kill Peruvian police official

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Leftist guerrillas bombed more than a dozen branch banks in the capital, and members of another rebel group killed a police official in the Andean city of Huancayo, police said.

Members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement attacked 11 branch offices of Banco de Credito, Peru's largest private bank, and two offices of Banco De La Nacion, the largest state-run bank, police said Friday.

They said the pro-Cuban guerrillas left the group's initials painted on some of the banks' walls, police said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The attacks began at 10:30 p.m. (0330 GMT), when a loud blast was heard in central Lima.

Other police sources said offices of Banco de Credito, Banco Popular and Banco Latino in the working-class neighbourhood of Rimac were bombed. But this could not be confirmed and it was unclear if the two reports included information on the same

attacks.

There was no immediate word on injuries or the extent of damages, police said.

Channel 9 television said late Friday that a bank in the working-class neighbourhood of La Victoria, about five kilometres from downtown, and a bank in Lima's neighbouring port city Callao also were bombed.

These reports also were not immediately confirmed.

Meanwhile, police said Maj. Enrique Antonio Chumbe, head of Huancayo's criminal investigation unit, was shot to death earlier in the day while he was walking near his home in the city, a trading centre of about 200,000 people some 225 kilometres east of Lima.

Police told the Associated Press that Maj. Chumbe, who formerly worked with anti-insurgency forces in Ayacucho state where the Shining Path began its battle against the government, was killed by a four-man rebel assassination team.

Ramos warns of growing rebel terror campaign

MANILA (R) — Philippine Armed Forces Chief Fidel Ramos has warned of growing Communist guerrilla violence in the run up to congressional elections in May in an effort "to terrorise" voters into supporting their candidates.

He told a meeting of business leaders Friday night rebel-related violence had been increasing since last month and the "rising trend ... will probably continue to be sustained up to the time of the congressional elections in May."

Gen. Ramos added: "Perhaps this could be an effort on their (rebels') part to terrorise the people into supporting the Communists-backed candidates."

The banned Communist Party cannot itself field candidates, though a party official has told Reuters it will support those candidates with a "track record of support for the people."

Meanwhile, the military reported nine soldiers were killed in an ambush Friday afternoon by suspected Communist rebels on the central Philippine island of Panay.

The civilian pressure group Bayan said at least 31 people were killed after two military helicopters strafed an outlying district of the southern Philippines

city of Davao a week ago.

The report could not be independently confirmed, though the military has reported that it has stepped up attacks on suspected Communist rebel strongholds around Davao, Mindanao Island's main city.

Gen. Ramos said at least nine people — an average of three soldiers, three rebels and three civilians — were being killed each day, which was an equivalent level to last year.

The Communists, who have been fighting the government since 1969, had suffered several setbacks, including the mistake of not giving support to the popular revolt that swept President Corazon Aquino into power last year, Gen. Ramos said.

He said the rebels made another mistake when they campaigned against a new constitution ratified by the people last month. The charter calls for elections of a new congress in May and provincial governors and mayors in August.

"The government and a concerned citizen can defeat the Communist insurgency if we will only endeavour to understand its nature, its dynamics and its character," Gen. Ramos said.

Soviet applicants to know duration of visa restriction

MOSCOW (AP) — People denied permission to emigrate because they know state or military secrets may be told how long they must wait before they can qualify to leave, the head of Moscow's visa office says.

S. Alpatov also said to an interview published Friday in the newspaper Vechernaya Moskva that 150 Moscow residents have been granted permission to leave the country since a new emigration law was enacted on Jan. 1.

Alpatov, head of the Moscow office of the visa office, Ovr, said the most common reason people are refused permission to emigrate is that they know state or military secrets.

"We are now introducing such a practice that would allow us in some cases to let an applicant know the length of such a restriction," he said.

Many of those who have been refused permission to leave say they never have been given specific

Thailand to buy tanks from China at discount

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand has agreed to buy at least 50 T-69 tanks from China in a sweetheart deal, Saturday's newspapers quoted a senior army operations officer as saying.

The Bangkok Post said deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Suchinda Kruprayoon said Friday China would sell Bangkok 50 T-69 tanks at only 10 per cent of market price with a grace period for payment.

No army spokesman could be reached for comment Saturday.

The nation's newspaper quoted Gen. Suchinda as saying the deal was for 50 tanks at a yet to be settled "friendship" price.

Hess suffering from pneumonia

BERLIN (AP) — Rudolf Hess, 92, Adolf Hitler's former right-hand man and the last imprisoned Nazi leader, was in a British military hospital suffering from pneumonia, the family lawyer said.

Hess was taken out of Spandau Prison Sunday and transferred to a British military hospital for observation, said Andrew Purdon, spokesman for the British diplomatic mission in West Berlin.

"He was taken there simply because he said he wasn't feeling well," Purdon said Friday.

But Alfred Seidl, the Hess family lawyer, said in a telephone interview with the Associated

Survivors recount ordeal in sunken British ferry

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium (R) — For the lucky ones, the wet, cold horror on board the doomed Herald of Free Enterprise ended with the smash of a rescuer's axe through a porthole.

It began, one survivor said early Saturday, with the tremble of glasses in the ship's main restaurant and then the whole boat "just started to lift and kept on going over."

The forlorn, shattered hand of bedraggled survivors in the Hotel Novotel just outside Zeebrugge spoke of their stunned disbelief Friday night as they found themselves suddenly with freezing water rising around them.

Just moments before, the 7,951-tonne ferry had set off from Zeebrugge in Belgium for Dover, taking to England about 540 people, virtually all Britons returning from a "supercheap" £1 day return trip to the continent.

Then as it was just pulling clear of the harbour, the vessel flooded — dramatically and mysteriously — and the nightmare began.

Andrew Simons, 30, a self-employed motor mechanic, was in the corridor with a friend, Clifford Byrne, when the lights of the ferry went out. "Water started rushing in and just rose up around me. None of us could believe it."

Simons, from Tooting Bec, London, said that once the boat had steadied on to its side he hauled himself along a banister into the lounge where he saw a man standing deep in water holding a baby girl.

"He was too cold to move."

Head of UNFPA dies

NEW YORK (USIA) — Rafael M. Salas, executive director of the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and an under secretary general of the U.N. died on March 4 at age of 58.

Salas, a leading authority on family planning, headed the agency since its creation in 1969. He guided UNFPA's growth from a small organisation with less than \$2.5 million in resources and a staff of five into the largest source of international population assistance worldwide, with resources of almost \$150 million and a staff of 270.

Salas was one of a few people who transformed the obscure field of family planning into an accepted component of development, helping planners overcome initial position to population control in underdeveloped, Roman Catholic and Marxist countries.

When he became head of UNFPA only Sri Lanka and India had family planning programmes.

It was not clear from Alpatov's statement whether the new policy would be carried out only in Moscow or across the country.

Figures were available to compare with previous months the number of Moscow residents allowed to leave in January and mid-February.

Alpatov said Soviets still would be refused permission to leave the country if they were leaving behind elderly parents without a means of support, or if they sought to join family members who illegally left the country.

100 hurt in clashes among Bangladesh political rivals

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — At least 100 people were injured in a clash between two rival political parties outside Dhaka, witnesses said.

Police said two policemen and one fireman were among the injured Friday in the fight at the town of Adamjeeagar between the workers of the ruling Jatiya Party and the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

No arrests were made and the exact number of casualties was unavailable, police said.

Khaleda Zia, head of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, was scheduled to address a meeting at Adamjeeagar, 16 kilometres south of the capital, when the violence erupted, party sources said.

The Jatiya workers want to stop Khaleda Zia from campaigning against the autocratic government, he said at a news conference in Dhaka.

Ecuador adopts austerity measures after earthquake

QUITO (R) — Ecuador has adopted tough fuel conservation measures after oil production was paralysed by an earthquake in which six people died and 20 were injured.

Energy and Mines Minister Javier Espinosa said on television Friday night the country would cut domestic fuel sales by 30 per cent. It would also suspend foreign crude sales, the nation's main export earner.

The quake on Thursday, which registered six on the 12-point Mercalli scale, killed at least six people and was centred near the Reventador Volcano about 90 kilometres east of Quito, authorities said. At least 700 aftershocks struck Friday.

The quake paralysed oil production by damaging about 40 kilometres of Ecuador's main pipeline linking Amazon basin oil fields to the Pacific Ocean coast.

Andrea Hess, the wife of Hess' son, said the family telephoned the British director of Spandau Prison Sunday and transferred to a British military hospital for observation, said Andrew Purdon, spokesman for the British diplomatic mission in West Berlin.

"He was taken there simply because he said he wasn't feeling well," Purdon said Friday.

But Alfred Seidl, the Hess family lawyer, said in a telephone interview with the Associated

Cliff and I managed to get a hand to the baby and we got it out of the water," he said.

A while later, a rescuer smashed through a porthole and they passed the child out. They were later lifted from the stricken vessel by helicopter.

"We later learned the child was a two-year-old girl and had been reunited with its mother," Simons said.

"Before we saw the helicopter lights we looked at each other and thought we were going to die. We said to each other 'live together, die together'."

We must have been trapped in there for 20 minutes. I don't think I have ever been so freezing cold," said Byrne.

Truck driver Arthur Edwards, 43, from Gnosall, Staffordshire, said: "It all happened so fast. It took several seconds for people to realise it was going over. There were just ooo or two squeals from people where I was and that was it."

He saw one body submerged in the water before clambering out on to the upper side of the wreck.

Susan Haines, 33-year-old auditor who had been returning from West Germany with her boyfriend, said there was only a moment of panic "then calm descended as the boat began to fill up with water."

"She swam up to a higher deck buoyed by the rising tide around her. "It was very, very cold and pitch dark and then I pulled myself up to a ledge. There were people bleeding around me."

"He was too cold to move."

Everest may not be tallest mountain

NEW YORK (R) — Mount Everest may not be the world's highest mountain, U.S. scientists were quoted as saying. The New York Times, citing a report by scientists at the University of Washington in Seattle, said new measuring techniques using a U.S. satellite indicate that K-2, another peak in the Himalayas, may be taller. But the scientists were unwilling to confirm K-2 was the world's tallest peak until they could also measure Everest using the same techniques. The accepted height for Everest is 29,028 feet (8,847 metres) and K-2 is listed at 28,250 feet (8,610 metres). However, a Washington University expedition which climbed K-2 last year established its height as 29,064 feet (8,858 metres), with the possibility that it could be as tall as 29,228 feet (8,908 metres). One of the scientists told the New York Times, however, that the height now accepted for Everest could also be wrong. "I wouldn't be surprised if we found Everest to be higher," Dr. George Wallerstein, a member of the expedition, said.

Man on death row freed after 13 years

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — A man who came within 24 hours of execution was freed after two witnesses who helped send him to death row 13 years ago recanted their trial testimony.

Joseph Green was released Thursday night after state prosecutors decided they couldn't win a murder retrial ordered by the courts. "The only proof we have is that there is no proof," prosecutor Chris Hoyer said. Green was sentenced to die for the 1973 robbery, rape and murder of Earlene Evans Barksdale. The nude body of the 34-year-old woman was found in the back office of her children's clothing store. She had been shot in the back of the head.

In 1983, then-Governor Bob Graham signed a death warrant, and Green was scheduled to die in the electric chair on the morning of Oct. 18. But less than 24 hours before, U.S. District Judge W. Terrell Hodges blocked the execution in response to an appeal citing 11 alleged violations to the U.S. constitution. Green's argument in both state and federal appeals courts centred on a videotaped deposition of the state's key witness recanting his trial testimony. The 11th U.S. circuit court of appeals in Atlanta ruled in March 1986 that the state had made a secret, unfair deal with a witness to testify at Green's trial. The witness, Ronald Floyd, now says he lied on the witness stand and was not with Green when Mrs. Barksdale was slain, Hoyer said. A second witness who testified against Green was interviewed and said he also lied, Hoyer said.

Ex-porn star undergoes liver transplant

PITTSBURGH (R) — Linda Lovelace, who starred in the X-rated movie Deep Throat, then went on to campaign against pornography, underwent a liver transplant, a hospital spokeswoman said. The operation at Pittsburgh's Presbyterian University hospital lasted almost 14 hours, spokeswoman Chris Shire said.

Born in Bago, Philippines, Salas was a diplomat in his country's foreign service before joining the U.N. From 1966 to 69, he was executive secretary of the Philippine Republic and was at one time general manager of the "Manila Chronicle."

Police said they used batons and tear gas to disperse a crowd which set fire to several shops, offices of rival political parties and the dais for the public meeting.

The rioters fought with rocks, clubs and sticks and exploded homemade bombs and firecrackers, police said. Eyewitnesses said most of the injured sought first aid at private clinics. Omidur Rahman, a leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, blamed the clashes on Jatiya Party "hooligans."

"The Jatiya workers want to stop Khaleda Zia from campaigning against the autocratic government," he said at a news conference in Dhaka.

Faster blood screening system developed

TOKYO (R) — Japan has developed an automatic blood screening system for AIDS which can determine within one hour whether people are infected with the killer disease, the Japanese Red Cross Society has said. The system uses a newly-developed chemical test which enables existing automatic blood testing machines to detect the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus, officials of the society's Hokkaido blood-donor centre in northern Japan said. Tokyo-based Fuji Rebio, developers of the chemical test in the system, said local marketing will begin next month. The current widely-used AIDS screening method ELISA (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay) takes several hours and requires more staff. The society said the new system would cut the increasing work of checking for AIDS carriers if it was approved and introduced at its 75 blood-donor centres in Japan.